OPINION 1468

Orbicula Cuvier, 1798 (Brachiopoda, Inarticulata): suppressed

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Orbicula* Cuvier, 1798 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Orbicula* Cuvier, 1798 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology, as suppressed in (1) above.

History of Case 2545

An application for the suppression of the generic name *Orbicula* Cuvier, 1798 was received on 13 December 1985 from Dr C. H. C. Brunton (*British Museum* (*Natural History*), *London*) and Dr D. E. Lee (*University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand*) and was published in BZN **43**: 210–212 (July 1986). Notice of the case was sent to ten general and four specialist journals.

The new nominal genus with *Patella anomala* Müller, 1776 as type species mentioned in BZN **43**: 210 (para. 1) is *Neocrania* Lee & Brunton, 1986 (*Bulletin of the British Museum* (*Natural History*), (*Geology*), **40**(4): 141–160).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1987 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals in BZN **43**: 211–212. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1987 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 15: Alvarado, Bayer, Bernardi, Cocks, Corliss, Dupuis, Gruchy, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Melville, Schuster, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 7: Cogger, Hahn, Holthuis, Lehtinen, Mroczkowski, Savage, Thompson.

Ride was on leave of absence. No votes were returned by Halvorsen and Starobogatov.

Cogger, Hahn, Holthuis, Savage and Thompson commented that as *Orbicula* had so long been disused its reintroduction as a valid generic name, with *Patella anomala* Müller, 1776 as type species, would cause no more confusion than the introduction of a new objective synonym, i.e. *Neocrania* Lee & Brunton, 1986. In reply Dr Brunton drew attention to paras. 4–9 of the application, which mentioned the fact that *Orbicula* had for long been associated with discinid rather than craniid brachiopods, so causing confusion.

Original reference

The following is the original reference to the name placed on an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Orbicula Cuvier, 1798, *Tableau élémentaire de l'histoire naturelle des animaux*, p. 435.